In the claims:

Please cancel claims 15-23 and 25, and add new claims 26 to 33 as shown in the following listing of all the claims in the Application.

Claims 1 - 14 (Canceled)

Claims 15 – 25 (Canceled)

26. (new) A method for producing viral particles comprising the following steps:

a) provision of a human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) in whose genome an essential gene has been deleted,

b) transfection of a stably transfected mammalian cell line which expresses the HCMV gene deleted in a),

c) replication of the gene-deleted virus from a) in cells from b),

d) infection of mammalian cells with virus which has been replicated as in steps a) - c)

e) isolation of viral particles from cells which have been infected as in step d), wherein

f) the particles are surrounded by a lipid membrane in which viral glycoproteins are embedded, and

g) the particles contain neither viral DNA nor capsids.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the stably transfected mammalian cell line is human foreskin fibroblasts.

28. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the mammalian cells are transfected with the aid of a lipid-containing reagent.

29. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the mammalian cells are transfected by the FuGENE ® transfection reagent.

30. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the HCMV in step a) harbors a deletion in the gene of the major capsid protein (UL86).

31. (new) A composition for immunization against HCMV diseases and infections comprising sub-viral particles and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the sub-viral

particles are released after infection of mammalian cells by human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) wherein,

a) the particles are surrounded by a lipid membrane in which viral glycoproteins are embedded,
b) the particles contain neither viral DNA nor capsids, and wherein
c) the sub-viral particles additionally contain a fusion protein comprising one or more parts of the T-cell antigen pp65 (UL83) and one or more parts of one or more proteins which are not pp65.

32. (new) The composition of claim 31, wherein the sub-viral particles contain parts of gB and/or gH proteins which are variants of a particular glycoprotein from different HCMV strains.

33. (New) A composition for immunization against HCMV diseases and infections comprising the viral particles of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.